

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated August 19, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 12-14 are pending in the Application. Claims 10-11 are canceled herein without prejudice. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-9 are amended including for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Further amendments include correcting typographical errors, amending dependent claims to begin with "The", as well as correcting certain informalities noted upon review of the claims. By these amendments, claims 1-9 are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicant furthermore reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging that the oath conforms to the requirements under 37 C.F.R. 1.63 and that the drawings are acceptable for examination purposes.

In the Office Action, Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 5 is amended herein to cure the noted problem. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. It is respectfully submitted that the cancellation of claim 11 renders this rejection moot.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by WIPO Patent Publication WO 2000/062503 to Hardjono ("Hardjono"). Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hardjono in view of European Patent Publication No. 1032178 to Chen ("Chen"). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over

Hardjono in view of Chen in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0078353 to Sandhu ("Sandhu"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 and 12-14 are allowable over Hardjono alone and in view of any combination of Chen and Sandhu for at least the following reasons.

Hardjono shows a multicast message system wherein each router to which a message is forwarded through, modifies the message by appending tags to the message that identify the router. In Hardjono, the router device shares a cryptographic key with the sender and/or the receiving device (see, page 3, lines 12-22 and page 9, lines 11-15).

Chen shows a forwarding agent, termed a "home agent" that operates in a unicast system. The home agent modifies the original destination address to reflect a foreign address and modifies provided error checking to reflect the foreign address (see, Col. 10, paragraphs [0063]-[0064]).

It is respectfully submitted that the sender device of claim 7 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Hardjono. For example, Hardjono does not disclose or suggest, a sender device that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "protecting means being arranged to add a

cryptographic message integrity code to protect at least part of the communication fragment, wherein the cryptographic message integrity code is at least partly based on the target group address and a cryptographic key, and transmitting means being arranged to transmit the communication fragment to a receiver device through a router device that is not able to modify the cryptographic message integrity code and that does not have access to the cryptographic key" as recited in claim 7.

It is also respectfully submitted that the router device of claim 8 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Hardjono. For example, Hardjono does not disclose or suggest, a router device that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "receiving means being arranged to receive the communication fragment comprising a cryptographic message integrity code that is at least partly based on the target group address, modifying means being arranged to modify the communication fragment, by replacing the target group address by a reference referring to one of the at least two receiver devices, while maintaining the original cryptographic message integrity code without use of a cryptographic key related to the cryptographic message integrity code, and transmitting means being arranged to

transmit the modified communication fragment to the one of the at least two receiver devices" as recited in claim 8.

It is further respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Hardjono in view of Chen. For example, Hardjono in view of Chen does not disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "a sender device adding a cryptographic message integrity code to protect at least part of the communication fragment, wherein the cryptographic message integrity code is at least partly based on the target group address, the sender device transmitting the protected communication fragment to a router device, the router device, for at least one receiver device referred to in the target group address, replacing the target group address with an address of the at least one receiver device forming a modified protected communication fragment, while maintaining the unchanged cryptograph message integrity code, and subsequently forwarding the modified protected communication fragment to the at least one receiver device, the at least one receiver device receiving the modified protected communication fragment, the at least one receiver device restoring the original protected communication fragment by replacing the

address of the at least one receiver device with the target group address to allow verification of the protected communication fragment using the message integrity code" as recited in claim 1.

It is also respectfully submitted that the receiver device of claim 9 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Hardjono in view of Chen. For example, Hardjono in view of Chen does not disclose or suggest, a receiver device that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "receiving means being arranged to receive the modified communication fragment, restoring means being arranged to restore the communication fragment that was used to compute a cryptographic message integrity code included in the modified communication fragment that is at least partly based on the target group address by replacing an address of the receiver device with the target group address, and verification means being arranged to verify the cryptographic message integrity code" as recited in claim 9.

Sandhuis is cited for allegedly providing features of the dependent claims and as such, does nothing to cure the deficiencies of Hardjono in view of Chen.

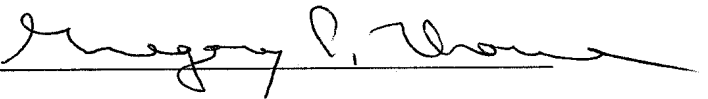
Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, 8 and 9 are patentable over Hardjono

alone and view of Chen and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-6 and 12-14 respectively depend from one of claims 1 and 9 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicant has made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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